



# Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan, Increment 1 (TE-34)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 1997      **Cost:** \$14.1 million  
**Project Area:** 142,000 acres      **Status:** Engineering and Design  
**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 1,155 acres  
**Project Type:** Hydrologic Restoration

## Location

The project is bounded on the north by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), the east by a north/south line from Lake De Cade to the GIWW, the south by Lake Mechant and Lost Lake, and to the west by a north/south line from Lost Lake to Avoca Island in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

## Problems

Area problems include major hydrologic alterations, interior marsh erosion, subsidence, saltwater intrusion, herbivory, and hurricane damage.



The project will reduce water levels in upper Penchant Basin during the growing season and protect interior wetlands from erosive, tidally induced water exchange, which is causing conversion of marshes to open water and loss of productive fish and wildlife habitat.

## Restoration Strategy

This project will combine the long-term realignment of Penchant Basin hydrology with restoration and protection measures aimed at maintaining the physical integrity of the area during the transition toward greater riverine influence.

Proposed project components may include: a rock weir with a barge bay in the northern end of Big Carencro Bayou at its intersection with Bayou Penchant; a steel sheet-pile weir with variable crest sections and flapgates in the Bayou Mauvais Bois at its intersection with the Superior Canal; rock bank stabilization; dredging and marsh creation at the mouth of Bayou Penchant; a rock weir with a barge bay at the southern shoreline of Raccourci Bay; maintenance of existing weirs along Bayou De Cade; shell plugs with rock rip-rap cover along Bayou De Cade; three steel sheet-pile variable crest weirs along Bayou De Cade; two steel sheet-pile variable crest weirs with boat bays along Bayou De Cade; a rock liner in Little Deuce Bayou at its intersection with Bayou De Cade; a rock weir with barge bay in Bayou la Loutre at its intersection with the Superior Canal; a steel sheet-pile weir with boat bay and variable crest sections in Brady Canal at its intersection with Bayou Penchant; an earthen bank stabilization along Bayou De Cade; and bank maintenance.

The project is expected to divert water and potentially reduce water levels in the northwestern portion of the project and divert that fresh water southeastward to where it is needed. This is expected to increase marsh, fisheries, and wildlife production.

## Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved this project on April 24, 1997. Priority Project List (PPL) 6 authorized funding of \$7,051,550, while PPL 8 authorized an additional \$7,051,550. This project is currently in the planning and design phase.

This project is on Priority Project List 6.

*For more project information, please contact:*



**Federal Sponsor:**  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Alexandria, LA  
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**Local Sponsor:**  
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
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**Weir \***  
**Plug \***  
**Shoreline Protection \***  
**Shoreline Stabilization with Marsh Creation \***  
**Project Boundary**



**Background Imagery:**  
Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery 2000

Map Date: August 27, 2003  
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Data accurate as of: May 15, 2003